**Production of Cotton**

3969. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India has the largest cotton acreage in the World;

(b) whether the productivity of cotton in the country is much lower as compared to foreign countries such as USA, China etc;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the productivity of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The area under cotton in India as per FAO Production Year Book 1994 was 7.67 million ha. as against 31.118 million ha. in the World in 1994.

(b) Yes, Sir. The average yield of cotton in 1993 was 264 kgs. per ha. in India as against 679 kgs. per ha. in USA and 750 kgs. per ha. in China.

(c) The main reasons of low productivity of cotton in India are :

(i) Almost two third of area under cotton is rained which is characterized by erratic rainfall behaviour;

(ii) Area under hybrid variety of cotton in India is about 35% of the total area which is very low compared to other countries;

(iii) Use of certified seeds is limited;

(iv) There is low rate of adoption of modern technology by the farmers, etc.;

(v) Cotton is grown mostly in black soil which faces water logging and poor drainage resulting in poorer yield;

(vi) Cotton crop is prone to pests and diseases which cause damage to crop etc.

(d) To increase production and productivity of cotton, the activities taken up under the scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme include transfer of technology through field demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management Demonstrations and farmers' training as well as incentives for use of critical inputs like hybrid seeds, farm implements, sprinkler sets, pheromone traps etc. As a result of these measures, the yield of cotton has increased from 152 kgs. per ha. in 1980-81 to 267 kgs. per ha. in 1995-96 and production increased from 7.01 million bales of 170 kgs. to 13.03 million bales likely in 1995-96.

**Production of Pepper**

3970. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's pepper production is the lowest among the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether the area under pepper cultivation has risen by over 20,000 hectares but the production has remained at the level of 1989-90, during the last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken to improve the productivity of pepper in the country particularly in the State of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The area and production of Black pepper in India for the years 1989-90 to 1994-95 is given below :

| Year | Area ('000 ha.) | Production ('000 M.T.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1989-90 | 171.50 | 55.20 |
| 1990-91 | 173.40 | 48.00 |
| 1991-92 | 184.20 | 52.00 |
| 1992-93 | 189.40 | 50.90 |
| 1993-94 | 190.99 | 51.32 |
| 1994-95 | 195.05 | 53.11 |

The reasons for stagnant production are :

1. Black pepper is a perennial crop with a gestation period of 3 to 4 years and it reaches full bearing only in the 8th year;

2. Prevalence of pests and diseases;

3. Existence of substantial area under old and senile gardens.

(e) For increasing production and productivity of spices, Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices is being implemented during 8th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 125.00 crores. Out of this, Rs. 63.50 crores have been allocated for development of pepper. The measures being taken to improve productivity of pepper in the country are : (1) Production and distribution of roated pepper cutting of High Yielding Varieties; (2) Rehabilitation of old pepper gardens; (3) Distribution of input kits; (4) Plant protection against quick wilt diseases; (5) Eradication of little leaf diseases; (6)

Demonstration plots; (7) Demonstration of High Production Technology; and (8) Area expansion. All these programmes except eradication of little leaf disease, distribution of input kits and demonstration of High Production Technology are being implemented in the State of Karnataka. For pepper development in Karnataka, an outlay of Rs. 415.29 lakh has been provided during 8th Plan. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for pepper development, an amount of Rs. 259.55 lakhs has been released to Government of Karnataka during 8th Plan till the end of 1995-96.

**Late Running of Trains**

3971. *SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the Minister of* RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the trains including Shan-E-Punjab and others touching Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir are generally running late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of times express/superfast rains touching Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir reached late at their designation during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the running of 2497/2498 Shan-E-Punjab Express and other trains touching Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, bad whether etc.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers; level are also being launched.

**Construction of Jetty**

3972. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sanghi Cements has constructed a jetty in Kutch, Gujarat within the Coastal Regulation Zone;

(b) whether the permission has been accorded at any level for the same by the Ministry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the prosecution being initiated for violation of the CRZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) M/s Sanghi Industries Limited applied for environmental clearance for proposed constructions of a jetty in Kutch, Gujarat. The proposal is under appraisal by an Expert Committee and permission has not as yet been given.

**Damage to Railway Property**

3973. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of damage and sabotage caused by the anti-social elements to the railway property during the last six months, zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons found responsible and the action taken against them; and

(c) the measures taken to protect the railway property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The details of damage and Sabotage caused by the anti-social elements to the Railway property during the last six months (February, 1996 to July, 1996) zone-wise are as under :

| Railway | No. of Cases reported | Value of Railway property damaged (in Rupees) |
|---|---|---|
| Central | 67 | 7,070 |
| Eastern | 4 | 1,71,00,000 |
| Northern | 5 | 1,500 |
| North-Eastern | 4 | 1,070 |
| Northeast Frontier | 5 | 2,750 |
| Southern | 3 | 33,57,500 |
| South Central | 12 | 1,75,73,000 |
| South Eastern | — | — |
| Western | 1 | 5,000 |
| Total | 101 | 3,80,47,890 |

(b) 103 persons have been found responsible and prosecuted under various sections of law.

(c) Tough maintenance of law and order in Railway permises is the responsibility of the State Governments, RPF personnel are also deployed at vital installations and important situation to protect the Railway property. Close liaison is maintained with Government Railway Police and local Police authorities. Coordination meetings with high officials of the State are regularly held.